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Worst traffic fears not realized on I-15 rebuild

By brandon loomis
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The dreaded hours-long waits never materialized after crews started work on the massive Interstate 15 reconstruction in Utah County, but motorists will have a few night-time blips to dodge this month.

When the Utah Department of Transportation decided to narrow lanes and use the shoulder at Provo's S-curve, instead of shutting extra lanes, it averted what had been projected at up to two-hour delays in the evening peak hours. Three lanes remain open in each direction through the construction zone, and it's expected to stay that way for most of the time through completion in December 2012.

One measure of the traffic flow is Dave Creer's telephone, which hasn't been ringing much.

Creer is executive director of the Utah Trucking Association, and he grew used to hearing from exasperated truckers nationwide wondering "what's going on in Utah" during previous I-15 and I-80 jobs.

"I haven't heard much, which is good," he said. "The conclusion is, it's working."

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